

March 5, 2020

Dear Environment Committee Members,

As someone who cares about all animals and who votes, I would like to submit the following testimony:

1. I support HB 5338 prohibiting the sale of animal fighting paraphernalia. Current laws make prosecution of those engaging in animal fighting very difficult, and this legislation would help law enforcement to combat the crimes of dog fighting and cockfighting. Animals are enduring unspeakable suffering and we need to pass laws to protect them.
2. I support SB 294 (with amendments) prohibiting the sale and trade of ivory and rhinoceros horn in CT. Everything possible needs to be done to protect elephants and rhinos and to stop the horrendous brutality and killing of these beautiful animals. Horns and tusks are literally cut off the faces of sometimes still-living animals. Babies of the killed animals are left to suffer and die because they can't fend for themselves. Please accept the amendments offered in the testimony of the HSUS, which fix loopholes that would serve to enable illicit ivory traffickers.
3. I support HB 5341 prohibiting the sale and breeding of certain cetaceans. It is wrong and unconscionable for humans to capture and enslave marine mammals such as dolphins and whales. It is torture for these animals, who normally swim hundreds of miles in a week, to be confined to tiny enclosures.

Thank you for your consideration. Please be the voice for countless suffering animals.

Sincerely,

Heidi Ascher
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